Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJECT: AID TO INDIA - CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 9563; (B) NEW DELHI 9584

- 1. HEARINGS BEFORE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CONTINUE ON MARKUP DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BILL. COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE QUESTIONED RATIONALE FOR AID TO INDIA. THE POLITICAL REPRESSION ISSUE SURFACED, BUT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT AID TO KOREA, CHILE NOT INDIA. THERE IS PROBABILITY THAT ONE OR MORE AMENDMENTS WILL BE OFFERED LIMITING OR PROHIBITING ECONOMIC AID FOR INDIA THIS YEAR. ANTICIPATE AMENDMENTS WILL BE OFFERED NEXT TUESDAY AT EARLIEST.
- 2. DURING JULY 14 FLOOR DEBATE ON USDA APPROPRIATIONS BILL, REP. ASHBROOK (R-OHIO) PROPOSED ANTI-INDIAN AMENDLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT:

"NONE OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED BY THIS ACT SHALL BE USED TO SUPPLY COMMODITIES TO INDIA UNTIL THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIES TO THE CONGRESS THAT THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS EXISTING BEFORE THE JUNE 26, 1975 ACTIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN RESTORED."

- 3. ASHBROOK ARGUED THAT THE U.S. HAS OVER THE YEARS CONTRIBUTED UP TO DOLS. 10 BILLION WORTH OF AID, MOSTLY IN FORM OF AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE, TO QUOTE: WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY. UNQTE. ACTIONS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MADE IT OBVIOUS THAT WE SHOULD NOT GIVE NEW AID UNTIL DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RESTORED. CHAIRMAN RULED AMENDMENT WAS OUT OF ORDER.
- 4. REP. CRANE (R-ILL.) LATER PROPOSED:

"NONE OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED BY THIS ACT SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY ASSISTANCE TO INDIA." CRANE WENT ON TO BLAST GOI FOR INSTITUTING OPPRESSIVE MEASURES AND FOR DEVELOPING A NUCLEAR CAPACITY.

5. REP. DERWINSKI (R-ILL.) THEN ADDED AMENDMENT WHICH CRANE ACCEPTED:

"PROVIDED THAT NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT THE GRANTING OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE EVENT OF ANY NATURAL DISASTER."

6. REP. WHITTEN (D-MISS.),BILL SPONSOR AND FLOOR MANAGER, WAS OPPOSED TO SINGLING OUT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. REP. HAYS (D-OHIO) SAID THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE A NICE FEELING TO BE ABLE TO CUT OFF AID TO INDIA WHILE GANDHI IS IN POWER, AND WHILE HE DOESN'T LIKE HER, HE QUESTIONED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SUCH AN AMENDMENT AND ALLUDED TO THE UNSUCCESSFULNESS OF THE VANIK-JACKSON AMENDMENT IN THE RECENT TRADE BILL. HE WAS ALSO OPPOSED TO DEPRIVING THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE PRESIDENT OF FLEXIBILITY IN CASE THE REGIME WERE CHANGED WITHIN THE YEAR.

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7. REP. JOHNSON (R-COLO.) SAID THE CHOICE LAY BETWEEN THE EXPANSION OF FOOD GRAIN SALES AND RESUMPTION OF FARM SUBSIDIES. HE PREFERRED THE GRAIN SALES AND ADDED QUOTE: IF WE ARE AT THE POINT WHERE WE DO NOT WANT TO SELL GRAIN ABROAD BECAUSE WE DISAGREE WITH THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT THE PURCHASER HAS,THERE ARE PROBABLY VERY FEW GOVERNMENTS THAT WE COULD DO BUSINESS WITH IN THE WORLD. UNQTE.

8. TO ACCOMMODATE CERTAIN OBJECTIONS, REP. CRANE PROPOSED TO CHANGE THE AMENDMENT TO:

"NONE OF THE FUNDS PROVIDED BY THIS ACT SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR ANY ASSISTANCE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA."

9. REP WHITTEN OBJECTED BOTH TO THE REWORDED CRANE AMENDMENT AND TO THE DERWINSKI AMENDMENT TO IT. IN VOICE VOTES, BOTH THE DERWINSKI AMENDMENT TO THE CRANE AMENDMENT AND THE CRANE AMENDMENT ITSELF WERE DEFEATED. KISSINGER

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TAGS: EAID, IN, US To: NEW DELHI

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